



Inter Office Memo

Margaret Mims
Sheriff

Date: November 18, 2010
To: Captain J. Horton
From: Lieutenant M. Lancaster
Subject: Sergeant Bradley Christian, OIS /I.A. #09-30

Policy and Procedure Section:
304.11 Shooting Policy, Use of Force

Recommendation:
Exonerated

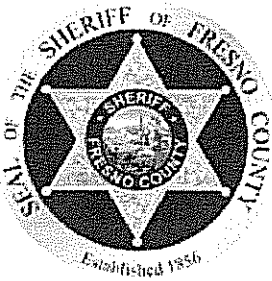
Summary:

I have reviewed the attached documents and reports. The evidence supports that on June 7, 2009 at about 0843 hours deputies were dispatched to [REDACTED] regarding an attempted suicide. The reporting party told Dispatch her husband Bill Ansel was suicidal and had a history of mental problems.

Sergeant Christian, a patrol supervisor at the time responded to assist. Prior to his arrival, deputies and two other sergeants were on scene and saw Mr. Ansel carrying a handgun in the backyard of his home in a rural agricultural area of Fresno County. Sergeant Patrick Hanson gave Mr. Ansel several commands to put his weapon down but he refused. When Sergeant Christian arrived on scene, he observed Mr. Ansel put the handgun to his head 3 times and heard him say he had nothing to live for. Communication with Ansel was taken over by Sergeant Mark Bray.

After negotiations of more than an hour, Sergeant Christian and Hanson developed a plan to rush Mr. Ansel with less-lethal weapons covered by lethal firearms. At one point Sgt. Christian took possession of Sergeant Hanson's Department issued shotgun and developed a plan to shoot the weapon out of Ansel's hand. Based on his training and experience as an instructor in the use of the shotgun and other weapons, he believed he could effectively disarm the subject with minimal danger of hitting vital organs, due to the spread of buckshot.

Sergeant Hanson and his team of deputies and Clovis PD Officer Shurtliff (carrying a .40 mm less lethal multi launcher gun) got in position as Mr. Ansel turned towards



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Sergeant Bray. At this time Sergeant Christian fired a single round from the shotgun, knocking the handgun out of his hand. The team moved in and as Ansiel picked up his firearm, Clovis PD Officer Shurtliff fired several less lethal rounds at him. Deputy Jose Diaz also fired a round and Mr. Ansiel went to the ground. He refused to show his hands so a taser was used which caused Mr. Ansiel to follow directions and he was then taken into custody.

All the deputies and sergeants on scene confirmed that Sergeant Christian fired one round from the shotgun, which was consistent with the evidence.

Mr. Ansiel was held under W&I 5150 due to his mental state of being a danger to himself. He was not charged with a crime.

The Fresno County Sheriff's Office conducted an investigation into this shooting. Detective Grajeda of the Homicide Unit concluded in his report 09-12210 that "At the conclusion of the investigation, Billy Ansiel was not charged with a crime. It appeared that he was suicidal at the time of the incident, but did not threaten the involved officers. The investigation revealed that Sergeant Christian fired at Billy Ansiel to disarm him, to prevent him (Billy Ansiel) from shooting himself".

The Fresno County District Attorneys Office also participated in the investigation of this Officer Involved Shooting (OIS), but did not complete their investigation. District Attorney Beth Egan notified law enforcement in Fresno County on June 11, 2010 that beginning July 1, 2010 her Office would no longer be conducting OIS investigations unless there is criminal conduct on the part of any involved party, including police officers. This OIS has not been completed and apparently will not be based on DA Egan's letter. (See attached letter dated 6/11/2010).

Based on all the evidence I find that Sergeant Christian acted within law and policy and find Sergeant Christian EXONERATED.


Lieutenant Mike Lancaster